THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has drawn up a plan for phase-wise development of 35 tentatively selected non-metro airports. The Global Technical Advisor (GTA)/Indian Financial Consultant (IFC) have considered various options including Public Private Partnership for development of initially selected 10 Non-Metro Airports. The Joint Venture for modernization and development of each Airport would be one of the options depending upon feasibility and availability of resources.

Some of the airports tentatively identified by AAI are:—

Guwahati (Assam); Patna (Bihar); Ahmedabad, (Gujarat); Mangalore (Karnataka); Trivendrum (Kerala); Bhopal, (Madhya Pradesh); Aurangabad, (Maharashtra); Bhubaneshwar (Orissa); Amritsar (Punjab); Jaipur (Rajasthan); Coimbatore, (Tamilnadu); Lucknow, (Uttar Pradesh); Chandigarh (Chandigarh); Jammu (Jammu & Kashmir) and Dehradun (Uttaranchal).

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The process of development of these airports is targeted to be completed in about five years.

(e) The Empowered Sub-Committee of the Committee on Infrastructure reviewed the proposal on 3/10/2005 and set up a Task Force to decide on the financial plan for development of these non-metro airports.

Take-off and landing space at Airports

589. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the short-term measures proposed by Government to reduce delays due to lack of take-off and landing space at major airports like Delhi;

(b) whether Government are aware that on average the planes circle over Delhi for 30 minutes to one hour just to land or take-off;

(c) what short-term steps have been put in place to reduce such delays since November 1, 2005;

(d) whether it is a fact that lack of software or technical expertise of our air traffic controllers is creating further problems; and

(e) the steps proposed to immediately improve take-off and landing times of our planes and reduce delays?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Various measures have been introduced by Airports Authority of India (AAI) to reduce delays in take off and landing of flights at major airports such as establishment of Clearance Delivery Position to enable pilots to expedite departures, introduction of Auto Release procedures to release the departures on standard routes upto a certain height for expeditious departures, starting the construction of new high speed exit and parallel taxiways to reduce the runway occupancy time and enable operations from both the runways, and initiating the upgradation of Air Traffic Control Automation System and installation of Advanced Surface Movement Guidance & Control System at Delhi and Mumbai airports. Besides, in order to reduce congestion in air for timely landing and take off, AAI has plans to introduce a system of Air Traffic Flow Management to enable the departures from airports other than Delhi and Mumbai.

(b) No, Sir. Delays are only during peak hours due to bunching of flights, especially for incoming flights.

(c) Short term steps include provision of additional taxi-tracks and parallel taxi ways.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) As mentioned at (a) above.

Immigration Counters at Airports

590. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that international passengers face delays of an average of one hour at immigration counters both on arrivals and departures;

(b) what is the problem in having more immigration desks and officers at peak hours;

(c) the details of the management problems involved in creating adequate immigration counters and placing more staff to reduce delays and harassment;

(d) whether it is a fact that immigration staff is also inefficient and cavalier in their work; and

(e) the steps proposed to sensitise such staff immediately to help passengers at airports?